

❖ The Brewster Pipeline ❖

August, 2011

What's New

The Board of Water Commissioners have changed the policy regarding the service line between your home and the water main. In the past any cost associated with maintenance of the service was the homeowners responsibility including within the town road. The current policy states that the Water Department is responsible from the main to the property line and the home owner from the property line to the home. This will allow department personnel to perform maintenance on infrastructure prior to roadway improvements without burdening residents with costly fees. This maintenance is necessary to ensure the system functions properly.

Hazardous Waste Collection 2011

There are still two remaining dates for this year's tri-town hazardous waste collection program, **September 10th and October 8th**. Collections are from 9 AM to 12 noon at the Harwich Transfer Station, 209 Queen Anne Road. There is no fee for residents and taxpayers of participating towns. For more info call Brewster Health Dept. (508-896-3701, ext. 120). Remember, paint recycling is available seasonally, at the Brewster Town Transfer Station facility. For information, call 508-896-3212. Please continue to support this important and convenient opportunity.

Please remember to keep updated **Emergency phone contact numbers** on file with the Water Department. Help us to promptly contact you in the event of a problem, Thanks!!

Thank You Bill Porter

Bill Porter recently stepped down as the Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners. In his 27 years of service he played a large role in creating the Water Department that exists to date. Bill has been involved in numerous large scale capital projects, acquisition of property for aquifer protection and implementation of rate studies to ensure revenues to sustain the operations. In short, Bill has worked to ensure the residents of Brewster received the highest quality of water at the most reasonable price. All of the staff at the Water Department would like to extend their gratitude to this "Great Man".

Fall System Flushing

This summer an unusual number of resident experienced discolored water during the high demand time periods. We are currently working with an engineering consultant to evaluate and improve the existing flushing program to address these issues. The distribution system is flushed in the spring (west end of town) and fall (east end of town). This is necessary to remove sediment (iron) that settles to the bottom of the water mains. This sediment can cause discolored water and cause staining of clothes and plumbing fixtures. The actual hydrant flushing should be a four week process. Schedules will be posted at the front entry of the Water Department office, Town Hall's public bulletin board and sent to the local papers and cable company. In addition, the schedules will be listed on the Department webpage at www.town.brewster.ma.us. Watch for white 'flushing area' sign boards defining the work area.

Your Water Meter

The primary purpose of the water meter is for accurate measurement of water use for billing. The meter can also be a benefit to the consumer as well. Providing your water meter is in the building basement or accessible location, the meter can help you track your water use and conserve water.

Occasional checks for meter movement after a period of non-use, such as a day of work or shopping, can show household leakage from a toilet, sink or irrigation. Reading before and after an irrigation cycle of either manual or automated watering will give you an idea of how much water is being used for lawn or garden watering. Once normal use is determined, regular checks will help detect malfunctions or waste.

All Brewster water meters have a "clock face" and needle. Residential meters are marked off in gallons (ten gallons per revolution) and tenths. Most meters are also equipped with a "low flow" paddle. This indicator, shown to the left of the needle below, turns at a very low rate of flow and is useful for detecting small leaks. Additional information on leak detection is available at the Department office.

Low flow paddle



As shown on the back of the August 2011 bill, Brewster water rates are changing. These new water rates will be reflected in the February 2012 bills for consumption used during the prior reading period .

FUTURE WATER RATES, EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2012:

WATER USAGE: Step 1: \$2.12 per 1,000 gallons from 0 to 5,000 gallons of usage per billing.
Step 2: \$4.46 per 1,000 gallons over 5,000 gallons of usage per billing.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FEE:

Based on meter size:

5/8" or 3/4"	\$ 54.00 per billing.
1"	\$ 104.00 per billing.
1 1/2"	\$ 129.00 per billing.
2"	\$ 154.00 per billing.
3"	\$ 204.00 per billing.

Protect Your Water

Did you know its possible to accidentally contaminate a water supply? A Cross Connection is any direct connection between the water supply and a non potable source. For example if you drop your garden hose in a pool it is possible for that pool water to contaminate the infrastructure feeding you and your neighbors. Devices can be installed to help prevent contamination. Please call our office for information.

All Department employees carry photo identification. If in doubt, please ask to see it.

2011 Summer Irrigation Restriction Schedule

June 15th through Labor Day:

Residential: Even numbered houses water on even numbered days. Odd numbered houses water on odd numbered days.

Commercial, Condominium and Municipal: Assigned odd or even in writing by the Water Department For more information call the office, 508-896-5454.

CONSERVE, it benefits everyone !!

Department Projects

Water Department Personnel have evaluated all Fire Hydrants to ensure they are functioning properly and continue to perform maintenance as needed. A grant was awarded to the town to promote water conservation measures. It will be used to perform a leak detection survey, purchase educational materials directed at elementary age levels and purchase water meters to ensure accuracy. A new well is currently in the design stages and construction funds will likely be requested at the Fall Town Meeting. The hydrant flushing program is currently being updated to reduce discolored water experienced by some residents. These are just a few of the many updates that have been made over the past year.

The Water Commission meets generally on the first and third Tuesday of each month and the public is welcome to attend. There are frequent changes to this schedule so please check with the office for exact time and dates. Meeting notices are posted at Town Hall. For the latest meeting information, please contact the Water Department office at 508-896-5454.

DIG SAFE

Remember, call before you dig!! Before you begin any excavation call the Water Department at

508-896-5454 **AND**

1-888 DIG-SAFE(1-888-344-7233).

The only thing exempt from the law is ".....excavation by tools manipulated only by human power for gardening purposes."

The Water Department is not notified through the automated DIG-SAFE process and must be notified separately. With the advent of affordable excavating equipment for rental, this is even more important!!

PLEASE Dig safe!!!

www.digsafe.com

For emergency service during non-office hours, please call the Brewster Police non-emergency number:
508-896-7011.

Our new office will continue as a drop off location for the **Brewster Caring Cupboard**, part of the Lower Cape Outreach network. We accept all **in-date** non-perishable food items along with household products. Please help this local agency helping local people. Your continued support is so important! **Thanks!!**